

- English Grammar in Use (Grammar Addition to the Textbook English for Pharmacy and Medical Bioanalytics)
- Mgr. Zuzana Katerová
- Conditionals

Conditionals

Zero conditional

We use the **zero conditional** to talk about things that are always true.

- *If you heat water, it boils.*
- *When the sun goes down, it gets dark.*
- *It lights up if you push that button.*

The present simple is used in both clauses.

First conditional

We use the **first conditional** when we talk about real and possible situations.

- *I'll go shopping on the way home if I have time.*
- *If it's a nice day tomorrow, we'll go to the beach.*
- *If Arsenal win, they'll be top of the league.*

In first conditional sentences, the structure is usually **if + present simple** and **will + infinitive**. It's not important which clause comes first.

Second conditional

The **second conditional** is used to talk about 'unreal' or impossible things.

- *If I won a lot of money, I'd buy a big house in the country.*
- *Where would you live if you could live anywhere in the world?*
- *If you didn't smoke so much, you'd feel a lot better.*

The structure is usually **if + past simple** and **would + infinitive**. It's not important which clause comes first.

Look at the difference between the first and second conditionals.

- In January: *If it snows tomorrow, I'll go skiing.* It might snow tomorrow.
- In August: *If it snowed tomorrow, I'd go skiing.* It almost certainly won't snow tomorrow.



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NOTE: Although many conditional sentences use if + will/would, conditional sentences can also use other words instead of 'if' – e.g. 'when' 'as soon as' 'in case' Other modal verbs can be used instead of 'will/would' – e.g. 'can/could', 'may' 'might'.

Check your grammar

I. Conditional exercise (first / second / third conditionals)

Finish the sentences with a clause in the correct conditional.

- 1: If it is sunny tomorrow _____
- 2: If you sit in the sun too long _____
- 3: If I were you _____
- 4: If I were the Prime Minister _____
- 5: If she had studied harder _____
- 6: If I won the lottery _____
- 7: If I hadn't gone to bed so late _____
- 8: If I hadn't come to London _____
- 9: If you mix water and electricity _____
- 10: If she hadn't stayed at home _____
- 11: If I go out tonight _____
- 12: If I were on holiday today _____
- 13: If I had listened to my mother _____
- 14: If I hadn't eaten so much _____
- 15: If it rains later _____
- 16: If I were British _____
- 17: If I were the opposite sex _____
- 18: If I have enough money _____
- 19: If you don't wear a coat in the winter _____
- 20: If I weren't studying English _____



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II. Conditional exercise (first / second / third conditionals)

1. (First conditional) If we _____ (not / work) harder, we _____ (not pass) the exam.
2. (Third conditional) If the students _____ (not be) late for the exam, they _____ (pass).
3. (Third conditional) If the weather _____ (not be) so cold, we _____ (go) to the beach.
4. (Second conditional) If she _____ (have) her laptop with her, she _____ (email) me.
5. (First conditional) If she _____ (not go) to the meeting, I _____ (not go) either.
6. (Third conditional) If the baby _____ (sleep) better last night, I _____ (not be) so tired.
7. (First conditional) If the teacher _____ (give) us lots of homework this weekend, I _____ (not be) happy.
8. (Second conditional) If Lucy _____ (have) enough time, she _____ (travel) more.
9. (First conditional) If the children _____ (not eat) soon, they _____ (be) grumpy.
10. (First conditional) If I _____ (not go) to bed soon, I _____ (be) tired in the morning.
11. (Second conditional) If I _____ (want) a new car, I _____ (buy) one.
12. (Second conditional) If José _____ (not speak) good French, he _____ (not move) to Paris.
13. (First conditional) If John _____ (drink) too much coffee, he _____ (get) ill.
14. (Third conditional) If we _____ (tidy) our flat, we _____ (not lose) our keys.
15. (Third conditional) If Luke _____ (not send) flowers to his mother, she _____ (not be) happy.



16. (Second conditional) If the children _____ (be) in bed, I _____ (be able to) have a bath.
17. (Second conditional) If you _____ (not be) so stubborn, we _____ (not have) so many arguments!
18. (Third conditional) If Julie _____ (not go) to Sweden, she _____ (go) to Germany.
19. (First conditional) If she _____ (go) to the library, she _____ (study) more.
20. (Third conditional) If we _____ (not have) an argument, we _____ (not be) late.
21. (Second conditional) If you _____ (arrive) early, it _____ (be) less stressful.
22. (Third conditional) If I _____ (not go) to the party, I _____ (not meet) Amanda.
23. (Second conditional) If Julie _____ (like) chocolate, I _____ (give) her some.
24. (Second conditional) If Luke _____ (live) in the UK, I _____ (see) him more often.
25. (Third conditional) If the children _____ (not eat) all that chocolate, they _____ (feel) sick.
26. (First conditional) If they _____ (not / arrive) soon, we _____ (be) late.
27. (Third conditional) If she _____ (study) Mandarin, she _____ (go) to Beijing.
28. (Second conditional) If we _____ (not be) so tired, we _____ (go) out.
29. (First conditional) If you _____ (buy) the present, I _____ (wrap) it up.
30. (First conditional) If Lucy _____ (not quit) her job soon, she _____ (go) crazy.



Check your answers

I. Conditional exercise (first / second / third conditionals)

Possible answers (check your answer is in the same tense):

1: If it is sunny tomorrow, we'll go to the park. 2: If you sit in the sun too long, you get burned. 3: If I were you, I would go out tonight. 4: If I were the Prime Minister, I would make the museums free. 5: If she had studied harder, she would have passed the exam. 6: If I won the lottery, I would buy a big house. 7: If I hadn't gone to bed so late, I wouldn't have been tired. 8: If I hadn't come to London, I would have gone to New York. 9: If you mix water and electricity, you get a shock. 10: If she hadn't stayed at home, she would have gone shopping. 11: If I go out tonight, I'll go to the cinema. 12: If I were on holiday today, I would go to the beach. 13: If I had listened to my mother, I wouldn't have caught a cold. 14: If I hadn't eaten so much, I wouldn't have felt sick. 15: If it rains later, I won't go out. 16: If I were British, I would speak perfect English. 17: If I were the opposite sex, I would grow a beard. 18: If I have enough money, I'll buy some new shoes. 19: If you don't wear a coat in the winter, you get sick. 20: If I weren't studying English, I would study French.

II. Conditional exercise (first / second / third conditionals)

1. (First conditional) If we don't work harder, we won't pass the exam. 2. (Third conditional) If the students hadn't been late for the exam, they would have passed. 3. (Third conditional) If the weather hadn't been so cold, we would have gone to the beach. 4. (Second conditional) If she had her laptop with her, she would email me. 5. (First conditional) If she doesn't go to the meeting, I won't go either. 6. (Third conditional) If the baby had slept better last night, I wouldn't have been so tired. 7. (First conditional) If the teacher gives us lots of homework this weekend, I won't be happy. 8. (Second conditional) If Lucy had enough time, she would travel more. 9. (First conditional) If the children don't eat soon, they'll be grumpy. 10. (First conditional) If I don't go to bed soon, I'll be tired in the morning. 11. (Second conditional) If I wanted a new car, I would buy one. 12. (Second conditional) If José didn't speak good French, he wouldn't move to Paris. 13. (First conditional) If John drinks too much coffee, he'll get ill. 14. (Third conditional) If we had tidied our flat, we wouldn't have lost our keys. 15. (Third conditional) If Luke hadn't sent flowers to his mother, she wouldn't have been happy. 16. (Second conditional) If the children were in bed, I would be able to have a bath. 17. (Second conditional) If you weren't so stubborn, we wouldn't have so many arguments! 18. (Third conditional) If Julie hadn't gone to Sweden, she would have gone to Germany. 19. (First conditional) If she goes to the library, she'll study more. 20. (Third conditional) If we hadn't had an argument, we wouldn't have been late. 21. (Second conditional) If you arrived early, it would be less stressful. 22. (Third conditional) If I hadn't gone to the party, I wouldn't have met Amanda. 23. (Second conditional) If Julie liked chocolate, I would give her some. 24. (Second conditional) If Luke lived in the UK, I would see him more often. 25. (Third conditional) If the children hadn't eaten all that chocolate, they wouldn't have felt sick. 26. (First conditional) If they don't arrive soon, we'll be late. 27. (Third conditional) If she had studied Mandarin, she would have gone to Beijing. 28. (Second conditional) If we weren't so tired, we would go out. 29. (First conditional) If you buy the present, I'll wrap it up. 30. (First conditional) If Lucy doesn't quit her job soon, she'll go crazy.



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